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(54) **Anti alpha v beta 6 antibodies and uses thereof**

(57) The present invention is in the fields of cell biology, immunology and oncology. Specifically, the invention relates to humanized antibodies that recognizes v 6 integrins which comprises a variable region of nonhuman origin and at least -a portion of an immunoglobulin of human origin. The invention also relates to processes for their preparation, to pharmaceutical compositions comprising them and to methods of treating various diseases by administering humanized anti- v 6 antibodies. The in-

vention also relates to the identification of differential expression of the integrin $\alpha v \beta 6$ on the surfaces of tumor cells and tissues, the use of this differential expression in determining the metastatic potential of tumor cells, and methods of diagnosis and treatment/prevention of tumor metastasis and for elimination of residual metastatic tumor cells using ligands, particularly antibodies, that bind to integrin $\alpha v \beta 6$.

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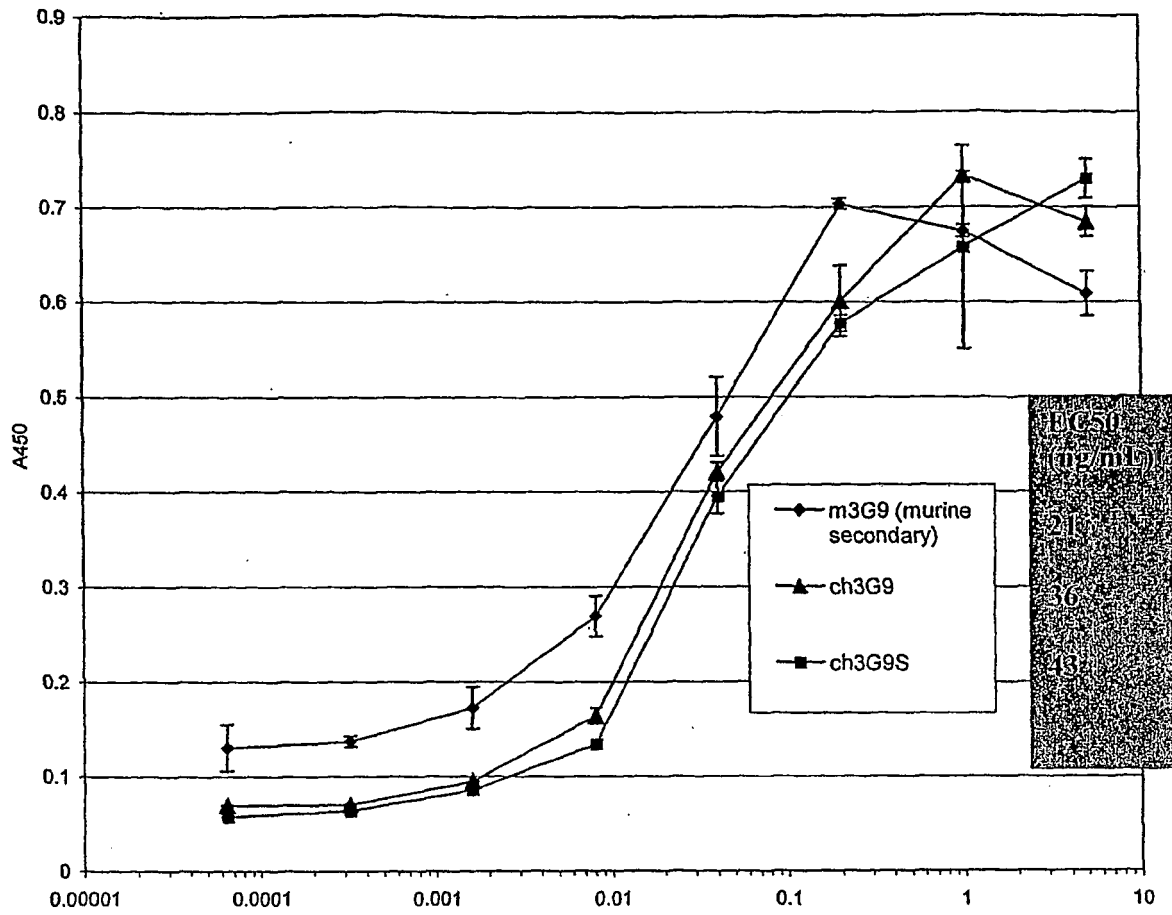


Figure 1. Binding ELISA of purified and chimerized 3G9 antibody variants to $\alpha_v\beta_6$.